Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1896.

To the Chairman & Members of the Seaton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen.

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1896.

There have been in this district twenty births & fourteen deaths during the past year. The death rate is 10·7 per thousand of the resident population. This is the lowest since the district was formed, except in the year 1890. when it was only 9. The average death rate for the preceeding ten years is 14·8. Three of the deaths were infants, two of them being only a few hours old, the third, two months old, was weakly from birth.

I have only received four notifications of infectious diseases during the year, one of Erysipelas & three of Scarlet Fever. Two of the latter were in the same house. The last case was in October. I visited the houses & found that every practicable precaution against the spread of the disease was being carried out under the directions of the Medical Attendant.

Hooping cough was prevalent during the latter part of the Autumn, but no death resulted from it either directly or secondarily.

The slaughter houses have been inspected monthly by the Inspector of Nuisance & I have paid them occasional visits. They have been kept clear and the walls have been frequently white washed. That occupied by Mrs Loud & Sons has been supplied with a new floor & the town water has been laid on.

The large heap of Town Refuse I called attention to in my last Annual report was removed early in the year. I should advise that what has since accumulated should be removed during the Spring months.

No complaint has been made to me of any grave nuisance during the year.

The Sewer outfall at Seaton Hole has been most effectually dealt with. A Septic Tank has been placed there & is now in operation. I have reason to believe from the reports I hear of its working at Exeter, & Yeovil, that this method of dealing with sewage will prove satisfactory.

Complaints are occasionly made to me of interruptions in the water supply to the houses situate in the higher part of the district. This occurs chiefly in the summer months when the water cart is working, & large quantities of water is continually being drawn in the place. The supply at the source is most abundant, but the mains are not large enough to meet the full summer requirements. I understand that the question of a reservoir is under the Councils consideration A Tank that would contain a full day's supply — say 50,000 gallons which would be under the Councils direct control, is very desirable for all purposes, & especially in case of fire.

I append the tables A & B, copies of which, together with a copy of this Report, have been sent to the Local Goverment Board, and to the Devon County Council as required by the Act.

I am Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant
H A Pattinson

Seaton 7 Jan 1897

Medical Officer of Health.